In the Claims

Please amend claims 10, 11, 12, 13 and 19 as indicated in the attached Claims Listing.

A complete Claims Listing showing all claims presently in the application and indicating the present status of each pending claim, is attached as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c).

Claims Listing:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 19, wherein at least one of said supporting elements has a mounting flange and at least one of said connections comprises a layer of adhesive between said structural element and said mounting flange.

3. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 19, wherein said structural elements are made of materials to which the group comprising glass, ceramic and glass ceramic belongs.

4. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 19, wherein said supporting elements-comprise a metal supporting element.

5. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 19, wherein said plurality of supporting elements comprises at least three supporting elements, distributed about the periphery of said structural element.

6. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 5, wherein said housing comprises an at least approximately centrally arranged structure reinforcing plate.

7. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 19, wherein said supporting elements each have an at least approximately an L-shaped portion and an adjoining mounting flange.

8. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 7, wherein said L-shaped portion has a horizontal leg and a vertical leg and wherein said structural element is supported upon said horizontal leg of said L-shaped portion and said vertical leg of

said L-shaped portion lies facing the external periphery of said structural element, said mounting flange adjoining said vertical leg of the L-shape in at least approximately the horizontal direction.

9. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 8, wherein adhesive surfaces are arranged between said structural element and said vertical leg of said supporting element and between said structural element and said horizontal leg of said supporting element.

10. (Currently Amended) A structure according to Claim 7, wherein said structural element is provided with a through-bore[[,]] through which a prestressed screw is passed and connected to the horizontal leg of the L-shape.

11. (Currently Amended) A structure according to Claim 7, wherein said structural element is provided with a through-bore[[,]] through which a prestressed screw passes and connects said vertical leg to said structural element.

12. (Currently Amended) A structure according to Claim 19, wherein said supporting elements each have [[a]] a portion of substantially U-shaped cross section, from which said mounting flange branches off, said substantially U-shaped portion having two mutually spaced legs between which said structural element is received.

13. (Currently Amended) A structure according to Claim 12, wherein said substantially U-shaped portion of said structural element is provided with a through-bore, through which a screw is passed, [which is] <u>said screw being</u> connected to said two legs of said supporting element in such a way that said two legs exert a prestressing force on said structural element.

14. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 19, wherein said supporting element comprises two mutually spaced clamping plates between which said

structural element is received, a peripheral plate running parallel to an outer wall of said structural element, and a mounting flange connected to said two clamping plates and said peripheral plate.

15. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 14, wherein said mounting flange has a portion having an at least approximately T-shaped cross section and has connecting elements connecting said two clamping plates and said peripheral plate to said mounting flange, said at least approximately T-shaped portion having a first leg which serves as a mounting plate for mounting said mounting flange upon said supporting structure and also has a second leg oriented perpendicular to said first leg, said connecting element being connected to said second leg of said at least approximately T-shaped portion.

16. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 15, wherein said connecting elements comprise screws and spring elements placing said screws under prestress.

17. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 14, further comprising at least one adhesive layer disposed between each of said clamping plates and said structural element and between said peripheral plates and said structural element.

18. (Previously Amended) A structure according to Claim 17, wherein said two clamping plates are provided with screws, which are screwed into said structural element in such a way that a prestress is exerted on said at least one adhesive layer.

19. (Currently Amended) A structure for use in a projection exposure system of the type used for manufacturing semiconductors, said structure comprising:

a projection lens assembly which includes a housing and a plurality of optical elements mounted in said housing for imaging a mask onto a semiconductor substrate, said housing having at least one structural element,

a supporting structure for supporting said projection lens assembly and bearing the weight of said projection lens assembly, said weight of said projection lens assembly including at least the combined weight of said housing and said plurality of optical elements, and

a plurality of supporting elements, each respective one of which forms part of a respective one of a plurality of connections through which said housing is connected to said supporting structure and through which said weight of said projection lens is transferred to said supporting structure in such a way that supporting forces generated by said supporting structure as a result of said transfer of said weight of said projection lens assembly are taken up by a pressure force and a shear force which act on at least one of said supporting elements.